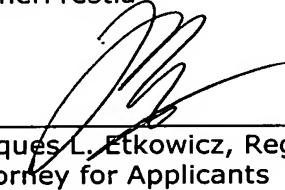


**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1-23 are amended and claim 24 is newly added to better conform to U.S. practice. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request that the amended claims be entered and examined.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia

  
Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738  
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/kpc

Attachment: Abstract

Dated: January 9, 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith..

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Date of Deposit: January 9, 2006

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kathleen Libby